REMARKS

By the present amendment, new drawings have been added, the specification has been amended accordingly to indicate the reference numbers, and new claims 19-27 have been added.

New claims 19-20 are dependent on claim 1 and recite polarization degrees of 99.3% and 99.5%, respectively, and new claims 21-27 are dependent on claims 13-15 and recite that the polarizing plate is on one side of the liquid crystal cell, and that the polarizing plate may transmit linearly polarized light. Support is found in the original application, in particular on page 2, line 24 (claims 19-20), and in the Examples (claims 21-27).

Support for the new drawings and the corresponding amendments to the specification is found in the elements described in the original application.

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. Independent claim 1, and claims 2-12 and 16-20 dependent directly or indirectly thereon, are directed to an optical film. Independent claims 13-15, and 21-27 dependent directly or indirectly thereon, are directed to a liquid crystal display.

As a preliminary, in the Office Action, the drawings are objected to for not showing essential structural elements of the invention.

A new sheet of drawings with Figures 3, 4 and 5 is submitted with this paper. The new drawings show the polarizing plate 1 with a polarizer 2 made of two portions 2a and 2b, an adhesive layer 7, an optical element 8 which may be a reflector or transflector, a retardation plate, a compensating film, or a brightness enhancement film, and an adhesive layer 9 covered by a separator 10. The specification has been amended to insert the reference numbers appropriately. It is submitted that these elements have been described in the original specification, so that these

amendments do not add any new matter.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the objection should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 1-4, 13-14 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by US 2003/0048396 (Ishii).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

As a preliminary, it is noted Ishii is not properly cited under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Under the AIPA (American Inventors Protection Act) version of Section 102(e) that entered into effect on November 29, 2000, a PCT publication provides an effective date under Section 102(e) only if it has been published under the PCT in English. If the PCT application was not published in English, no Section 102(e) date is available for the PCT application or any U.S. patent or patent publication resulting from a U.S. national stage of that PCT application.

In the present case, the U.S. application to Ishii was published on March 13, 2003, and is a national stage of an international (PCT) application PCT/JP00/09415 that was filed on December 28, 2000, i.e., after November 29, 2000. PCT/JP00/09415 to Ishii was published on July 5, 2001 as WO 01/48518 in the Japanese language. As a result, neither the PCT application nor the U.S. national stage can be applied under Section 102(e), AIPA version. Therefore, the earliest prior art effective date of the international application is the PCT publication date under Section 102(a) on July 5, 2001.

Applicants claim priority of Japanese application JP 2000-327247 (JP'247) filed on October 26, 2000, i.e., before the date of the PCT publication to Ishii. Support for the present claims is found in the priority Japanese application JP'247, in particular in the claims of JP'247 (claims 1 and 13), and page 4, lines 8-13 and the Examples of JP'247 (claims 2-4, 14, and 17-18).

Accordingly, the PCT publication to Ishii is not prior art under Section 102(a) for the presently claimed invention as recited in these claims.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejection over Ishii should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-11, 13-14 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by US 6,088,079 to Kameyama et al. (Kameyama).

As a preliminary, with respect to the rejection over Kameyama as applied to claim 8, it is noted that the passage of Kameyama at col. 11, lines 14-20, which is referred to in the Office Action, does not discloses two laminated polarizer portions having parallel transmission axes, but a single polarizing layer optionally having a transparent protective layer.

Further, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Kameyama fails to teach or suggest a cholesteric polarizer having a polarization degree of 99% or more. It would be expected to be technically difficult and not necessarily appropriate to obtain such properties for a cholesteric polarizer. In fact, Kameyama teaches polarization characteristics that are controlled to improve color characteristics but do not optimize the polarization degree.

Specifically, the passage at col. 9 of Kameyama, which is referred to in the Office Action, states that "the degree of polarization in a longer-wavelength visible region of 550 nm or longer, especially from 550 to 650 nm, is higher by at least 2%, preferably at least 5%, more preferably from 10 to 40%, than that in a shorter-wavelength visible region below 550 nm, especially from 430 nm to 550 nm," and further, that the degree of polarization in the range of 550 nm or longer is "preferably 80% or higher, more preferably from 82 to 96%, most preferably from 84 to 94%" (col. 9, lines 16-25). Thus, Kameyama suggests a polarization degree well below 99% for the cholesteric polarizer in the longer wavelength range, and an even lower polarization degree in the

shorter wavelength range. As a result, Kameyama actually teaches away from a polarizer made up of portions having a polarization degree in the ranges recited in the present claims.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejection over Kameyama should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by US 6,498,633 to Ozeki et al. (Ozeki).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. The purpose of Ozeki is to provide polarizers that correct color effects, not to improve the intrinsic polarization efficiency of polarizers. Accordingly, Ozeki not only fails to disclose a polarizer portion having the properties of the presently claimed invention, but actually teaches away from the present invention.

Specifically, Table 1 of Ozeki shows that the polarizer of Ozeki (last line in Table 1) has a polarizing efficiency of 99.9% at 550 nm, but the polarizing efficiency at 450 nm is only 75% and the polarizing efficiency at 650 nm is even worse at 31.3%. Therefore, the polarizers used in Ozeki do not meet any of the conditions recited in the present claims (polarization degree of 99% in the range 420-550 nm or in the range 550-700 nm). In other words, Ozeki requires that the polarizing efficiency of red and blue be lower than the polarizing efficiency of green (see Ozeki col. 3, lines 55-60), which teaches away from the present invention.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejection over Ozeki should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 1-2 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by US 2003/0086170 (Hamamoto).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. The effective

date of Hamamoto under Section 102(e) is October 3, 2001, the U.S. filing date. Applicants claim priority of Japanese application JP 2000-327247 (JP'247) filed on October 26, 2000, i.e., before the date of the effective date of Hamamoto. Support for the present claims is found in the priority Japanese application JP'247, in particular in the claims of JP'247 (claims 1 and 10-12), and page 4, lines 8-13, and the Examples of JP'247 (claim 2). Accordingly, Hamamoto is not prior art under Section 102(e) for the presently claimed invention as recited in these claims.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejection over Hamamoto should be withdrawn.

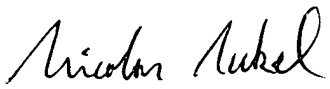
In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



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Encls.: New Sheet of drawings
Verified English translation of JP 2000-327247